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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/042,485	01/08/2002	Seikei Lee	22738.00300	6078

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EXAMINER


THAI, CANG G

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3629

DATE MAILED: 01/26/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

 Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/042,485	LEE ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Cang G. Thai	3629	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on January 08, 2002.
 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-37 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-37 is/are rejected.
 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>January 08, 2002</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Applicant is advised of possible benefits under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), wherein an application for patent filed in the United States may be entitled to the benefit of the filing date of a prior application filed in a foreign country.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on January 8, 2002 is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the examiner is considering the information disclosure statement.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

3. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

4. Claims 10-15 and 24-31 are rejected under 35 USC 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

The basis of this rejection is set forth in a two prong test of:

- (1) whether the invention is within the technological arts; and
- (2) whether the invention produces a useful, concrete, and tangible result.

For a claimed invention to be statutory, the claimed invention must be within the technological arts. Mere idea in the abstract (i.e. abstract ideas, law of nature, natural phenomena) that do not apply, involve, use, or advance the technological arts fail to promote the "progress of science and the useful arts" (i.e. physical sciences as opposed to social sciences for example), and therefore are found to be non-statutory subject

matter. For a process claim to pass muster, the recited process must somehow apply, use or advance the technological arts.

In the present case, Claim 10 is directed to "an attendance authentication method for a network conferencing system in which an output electronic equipment for presenting the contents of presentation, a plurality of attendant electronic equipments, and a conference management server connected with the output electronic equipment and the attendant electronic equipments so as to transmit and receive information to and from the output electronic equipment and the attendant electronic equipments, are connected via a communication network, each of the attendant electronic equipments comprising an information input/output function for inputting and outputting information from and to the other attendant electronic equipments and the output electronic equipment via the communication network, a presentation function for presenting the contents of presentation by using the output electronic equipment, a presentation contents browsing function for browsing the contents of presentation presented by the presentation function of the other attendant electronic equipments using the output electronic equipment, an authentication function for carrying out authentication of attendance of the other electronic equipments at a conference, an equipment management function for managing the state of each electronic equipment connected to the communication network, a display function for displaying, as icons, the other attendant electronic equipments with their attendance authenticated by the authentication function and the electronic equipment managed by the equipment management function, and a proceedings control function for controlling preparation of

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the proceeding by using the contents of presentation presented by the presentation function,

wherein the authentication function of a chairman terminal having the information input/output function, the authentication function, the equipment management function, the display function and the proceedings control function is

to input conference attendance requests including personal data related to the other attendant electronic equipments from the other attendant electronic equipments via the conference management server and

to prepare attendance permission information or attendance non-permission information for the other attendant electronic equipments in accordance with the operation by the user based on the personal data, thus authenticating the attendance."

In the present case, Claim 10 does not require any technology. The recited steps of network conferencing system does not apply, involve, use, or advance the technological arts since all of the recited steps can be done with no technology at all. The recited steps only constitute an idea for network conferencing.

Additionally, for a claimed invention to be statutory, the claimed invention must produce a useful (specific utility), concrete (repeatability and/or implementation without undue experimentation), and tangible (a real or actual affect) result.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter, which the applicant regards as his invention.

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6. Claim 1-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

7. Claim 1 recites the limitation of "output electronic equipment" in "a network conferencing system". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. Are the attendant electronic equipments and users one in the same? The preamble mentions the term "a communication network", which normally means a system of computers, terminals, and databases connected by communication lines", but there is no steps of "computers, terminals, and databases connected" for the communication network. It is not clear in Claim 1.

8. Claim 2 recites the limitation of "output electronic equipment" in "a conference management server". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. It is not clear on the relationship between the conference management server and a communication network. The preamble mentions the term "server", which normally means a computer in a network that is used to provide services (as access to files or shared peripherals or the routing of E-mail) to other computers in the network", but there is no steps of "computers" for the communication network. It is not clear in Claim 2.

9. Claim 3 recites the limitation of "electronic equipment" in the "communication network". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. It is not clear on the usage of the equipment in the communication network. Is the input/output function for inputting is to be performed manually by the user?

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10. Claims 4 and 16 recite the limitation of “output electronic equipment” in the “network conferencing system”. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. It is not clear on the usage of the equipment in the communication network.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

11. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

12. Claims 1-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,397,275 (CLAPP ET AL.).

As for Claim 1, CLAPP disclose a network conferencing system in which an output electronic equipment for presenting the contents of presentation, a plurality of attendant electronic equipments operated by users attending a conference, and a conference management server connected with the output electronic equipment and the attendant electronic equipments so as to transmit and receive information to and from the output electronic equipment and the attendant electronic equipments, are connected via a communication network, each of the attendant electronic equipments comprising:

an information input/output function for inputting and outputting information from and to the other attendant electronic equipments and the output electronic equipment via the conference management server {See Fig. 6, Element 120};

a presentation function for presenting the contents of presentation by using the output electronic equipment {See Fig. 6, Element 122};

a presentation contents browsing function for browsing the contents of presentation presented by the presentation function of the other attendant electronic equipments using the output electronic equipment {See Fig. 6, Element 124};

an authentication function for carrying out authentication of attendance of each electronic equipment connected to the communication network, at a conference {See Fig. 6, Element 170};

an equipment management function for managing the state of each electronic equipment connected to the communication network {See Fig. 6, Element 172};

a display function for displaying, as icons, the other attendant electronic equipments with their attendance authenticated by the authentication function and the electronic equipment managed by the equipment management function {See Fig. 6, Element 150}; and

a proceedings control function for controlling preparation of the proceedings by using the contents of presentation presented by the presentation function {See Fig. 6, Element 152},

wherein one of the authority to be a presenter terminal having the presentation function, the authority to be a chairman terminal having the authentication function, the

equipment management function and the proceedings control function, and the authority to be an attendant terminal having the presentation contents browsing function, is acquired {See Fig. 5, Element 122}.

As for Claim 2, which has the same limitation as in Claim 1, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reason set forth in Claim 1.

As for Claim 3, which has same limitation as in Claim 1, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reason set forth in Claim 1.

As for Claim 4, which has same limitation as in Claim 1, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reason set forth in Claim 1.

As for Claim 5, CLAPP discloses the network conferencing system as claimed in Claim 4, wherein the authentication function is to prepare attendance permission information which enables selection of icon displays of the other attendant electronic equipments permitted to attend the conference, and attendance non-permission information which makes it impossible to select icon displays of the other attendant electronic equipments not permitted to attend the conference {Column 18, Lines 23-26, wherein this reads over "a user may, for example, select ably decide to view video images associated with a local source video signal 254 received from either a main or an auxiliary video source 152 or 154"}.

As for Claim 6, CLAPP discloses the network conferencing system as claimed in Claim 4, wherein conference attendance requests including the personal information to request for attendance at the conference from the other attendant electronic equipments are inputted to the information input/output function via the conference management

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server {Column 18, Lines 36-39, wherein this reads over “the gain of the audio input of a main camera or auxiliary camera, for example, may be modified by a conferencing party”}, and

the authentication function is to prepare attendance permission information for changing the display mode of the icon displays of the other electronic equipments when the attendance is permitted in accordance with the operation by the user, in response to the conference attendance requests inputted to the information input/output function {Column 19, Lines 13-17, wherein this reads over “conferencing parties, for example, may initially share a window presented in color, and subsequently switch to black and white presentation at step 730 if a degradation in picture quality, typically resulting from a reduction in the rate of data transmission over the data pipe 82”}.

As for Claim 7, CLAPP discloses the network conferencing system as claimed in Claim 4, wherein the display function is to include icon displays of the other attendant electronic equipments existing in the communication network, in a first screen area, and to include icon displays of the other attendant electronic equipments existing outside the communication network, in a second screen area {Column 19, Lines 18-20, wherein this reads over “a user may select a particular window for sharing, or choose to stop or start window sharing or document collaboration as desired at step 730”}.

As for Claim 8, which has same limitation as in Claim 7, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reason set forth in Claim 7.

As for Claim 9, CLAPP discloses the network conference system as claimed in Claim 4, wherein conference leaving requests to request for leaving the conference

from the other attendant electronic equipments are inputted to the information input/output function via the conference management server, and the display function is to change the display mode of icon displays related to the other attendant electronic equipments which outputted the conference leaving requests, in response to the conference leaving requests inputted to the information input/output function {Column 19, Lines 49-54, wherein this reads over "the alerting software routine preferably interrupts the current operation of the visual conferencing application software or any other application software currently operating on the local host computer 244, and presents the user with a plurality of options, including an option to answer or ignore the incoming communication"}.

As for Claim 10, which has same limitation as in Claim 1, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reason set forth in Claim 1.

As for Claim 11, which has same limitation as in Claim 5, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reason set forth in Claim 5.

As for Claim 12, which has same limitation as in Claim 6, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reason set forth in Claim 6.

As for Claim 13, which has same limitation as in Claim 7, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reason set forth in Claim 7.

As for Claim 14, which has same limitation as in Claim 8, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reason set forth in Claim 8.

As for Claim 15, which has same limitation as in Claim 9, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reason set forth in Claim 9.

As for Claim 16, which has same limitation as in Claim 2, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reason set forth in Claim 2.

As for Claim 17, which has same limitation as in Claim 5, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reason set forth in Claim 5.

As for Claim 18, CLAPP discloses the conference management server as claimed in Claim 16, wherein the attendance management means outputs the prepared attendant equipment display information to the attendant electronic equipment connected with the communication network {See Fig. 6, Element 170}.

As for Claim 19, which has same limitation as in Claim 5, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reason set forth in Claim 5.

As for Claim 20, CLAPP discloses the conference management server as claimed in Claim 17, wherein the attendance management means is supplied with conference attendance requests including the personal data to request for attendance at the conference from the other attendant electronic equipments, and prepares attendant equipment display information for changing the display mode of icon displays on the basis of the attendance permission information from the chairman terminal in accordance with the conference attendance requests {See Fig. 6, Element 150}.

As for Claim 21, CLAPP discloses the conference management server as claimed in Claim 16, wherein the attendance management means prepares attendant equipment display information including icon displays of the other attendant electronic equipments existing in the communication network, in a first screen area, and including

icon displays of the other attendant electronic equipments existing outside the communication network, in a second screen area {See Fig. 6, Element 122}.

As for Claim 22, CLAPP discloses the conference management server as claimed in Claim 16, wherein the attendance management means prepares attendant equipment display information for displaying location attribute information indicating the presence of each of the electronic equipments in the communication network, in the first screen area, and displaying location attribute information indicating the presence of each of the electronic equipments outside the communication network, in the second screen area {See Fig. 6, Element 150}.

As for Claim 23, CLAPP discloses the conference management server as claimed in Claim 16, wherein the attendance management means prepares attendant equipment display information for changing the display mode of icon displays related to the other attendant electronic equipments which outputted conference leaving requests in response to input of the conference leaving requests to request for leaving the conference from the other attendant electronic equipments {See Fig. 6, Element 150}.

As for Claim 24, CLAPP discloses an attendance authentication method for a conference management server connected with an output electronic equipment for presenting the contents of presentation and a plurality of attendant electronic equipments via a communication network, each of the attendant electronic equipments comprising an information input/output function for inputting and outputting information from and to the other attendant electronic equipments and the output electronic equipment via the communication network, a presentation function for presenting the

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contents of presentation by using the output electronic equipment, a presentation contents browsing function for browsing the contents of presentation presented by the presentation function of the other attendant electronic equipments using the output electronic equipment, an authentication function for carrying out authentication of attendance of the other attendant electronic equipments at a conference, an equipment management function for managing the state of each electronic equipment connected to the communication network, a display function for displaying, as icons, the other attendant electronic equipments with their attendance authenticated by the authentication function and electronic equipment managed by the equipment management function, and a proceedings control function for controlling preparation of the proceedings by using the contents of presentation presented by the presentation function, the method comprising the steps of:

inputting a conference attendance request including personal data related to the attendant electronic equipment from the attendant electronic equipment {See Fig. 6, Element 150};

outputting the conference attendance request to the other attendant electronic equipments {See Fig. 6, Element 122};

inputting the result of attendance authentication in accordance with the conference attendance request {See Fig. 6, Element 151};

preparing an attendance information file for managing the plurality of attendant electronic equipments attending a conference by using the personal data and the result of attendance authentication {See Fig. 6, Element 170}; and

preparing attendant equipment display information for displaying, as an icon, the personal data of each attendant electronic equipment managed as the attendance information file in accordance with the result of attendance authentication {See Fig. 6, Element 125}.

As for Claim 25, CLAPP discloses the attendance authentication method as claimed in Claim 24, wherein attendance permission information or attendance non-permission information from the attendant electronic equipment having the authority as a chairman terminal having the information input/output function, the authentication function, the equipment management function, the display function and the proceedings control function is inputted {See Fig. 11, Element 242}, and

the contents of the attendance information file are updated {See Fig. 11, Element 612}.

As for Claim 26, CLAPP discloses the attendance authentication method as claimed in Claim 24, wherein the prepared attendant equipment display information is outputted to the attendant electronic equipment connected with the communication network {See Fig. 6, Element 122}.

As for Claim 27, CLAPP discloses the attendance authentication method as claimed in Claim 25, wherein attendant equipment display information which enables selection of icon displays of the other attendant electronic equipments permitted to attend the conference on the basis of the attendance permission information from the chairman terminal and which makes it impossible to select icon displays of the other

attendant electronic equipments not permitted to attend the conference on the basis of the attendance non-permission information is prepared {See Fig. 6, Element 176}.

As for Claim 28, CLAPP discloses the attendance authentication method as claimed in Claim 25, wherein conference attendance requests including the personal data to request for attendance at the conference from the other attendant electronic equipments are inputted {See Fig. 6, Element 122}, and

attendant equipment display information for changing the display mode of icon displays is prepared on the basis of the attendance permission information from the chairman terminal in accordance with the conference attendance requests {See Fig. 6, Element 150}.

As for Claim 29, which has same limitation as in Claim 13, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reason set forth in Claim 13.

As for Claim 30, which has same limitation as in Claim 14, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reason set forth in Claim 14.

As for Claim 31, which has same limitation as in Claim 15, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reason set forth in Claim 15.

As for Claim 32, which has same limitation as in Claim 3, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reason set forth in Claim 3.

As for Claim 33, which has same limitation as in Claim 4, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reason set forth in Claim 4.

As for Claim 34, CLAPP discloses the network conferencing system as claimed in Claim 33, wherein the presentation function transfers only the data related to the

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contents of presentation to the output electronic equipment or the attendant electronic equipment {See Fig. 9, Element 410}.

As for Claim 35, which has same limitations as in Claims 33 and 34, respectively, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reasons set forth in Claims 33 and 34, respectively.

As for Claim 36, CLAPP discloses the presentation method as claimed in Claim 35, wherein only the data related to the contents of presentation is transferred to the output electronic equipment or the attendant electronic equipment {See Fig. 9, Element 128}.

As for Claim 37, which has same element as in Claim 3, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reason set forth in Claim 3.

Conclusion

13. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

I. U.S. Patent:

- 1) U.S. Patent No. 5,483,588 (EATON ET AL.) is cited to teach voice processing interface for a teleconference system,
- 2) U.S. Patent No. 5,625,407 (BIGGS ET AL.) is cited to teach seamless multimedia conferencing system using an enhanced multipoint control unit and enhanced endpoint devices,

- 3) U.S. Patent No. 5,642,156 (SAIKI) is cited to teach video-conference network managing system having function for managing each site, and each schedule concerning video conference, and
- 4) U.S. Patent No. 6,237,026 (PRASAD ET AL.) is cited to teach method and apparatus for automatic enrollment of a computer to a conference network or the like.

II. Foreign Patent:

- 1) JP 2001290923 A (NAKAYAMA ET AL.) is cited to teach attendance managing system.

III. Non-Patent Literature:

- 1) Business/Technology Editors, "Harris Corporation Signs Contract with Chilean Government to Build World's Longest Wireless Network", May 19, 2000, Business Wire, New York, Page 1.
- 2) M2 Presswire, "SONY BROADCAST & PROFESSIONAL UK: New plug-in board for Sony Contract enables videoconferencing over LAN and WAN", May 18, 2000, M2 Presswire, Coventry, Page 1.
- 3) PR Newswire, "TODD Communications and Minerva Networks Announce Integrated Broadband Video Networking Solutions & Marketing Alliance", May 17, 2000, PR Newswire, New York, Page 1.

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- 4) Business Editors/High-Tech Writers, "Portal Supports Sony's Wireless Broadband Push; Intranet Platform Will Support Sony's New WLL-Based Internet Service, Bit-Drive", May 15, 2000, Business Wire, New York, Page 1.

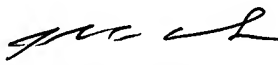
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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cang (James) G. Thai whose telephone number is (703) 305-0553. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30 AM - 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Weiss can be reached on (703) 308-2702. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

CGT
1-22-2005


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